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The LIPASECU experience

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In support to this, production of native chicken as an alternative livelihood is considered. So aside from the fish, dressed or grilled chicken will also be available to picnickers.

Other tourist destinations include the Pungtod Reef with its beautiful corals — this is already a favorite diving site of scuba divers. This reef was actually declared as a marine sanctuary through a municipal ordinance in 1995. However, the ordinance was not implemented earlier on. "But this time," Mayor Tirol warns, "we will apprehend people conducting illegal activities around the reef to preserve such exquisite resource."

There is also the reforestation project by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). DENR is planning to convert its reforestation project into a "rescue center" where endangered species will be housed.

Moreover, a small mangrove area is planned for aquaculture production in the near future.

Tangalan on food security

"I agree with President Estrada's idea on self-sufficiency for food security," Tirol said. That's why they have come up with a mission and vision to make Tangalan self-sufficient. They allocated budget for livelihood and CRM among other things.

Specific livelihood projects in relation to food security include the upgrading of native chicken for mass production, with tourists and locals as target clientele. There is also vegetable gardening and production of organic waste fertilizers through vermiculture.

"You have a fertilizer for your vegetable garden, at the same time, you also have worms as feeds for your chicken and catfish. There is really an endless possibility. Nothing is wasted!" quipped Mayor Tirol.

This first-term mayor is just hoping that through his leadership, he will be able to convince people to join hands to make all these plans a reality. ###

The LIPASECU experience

By **MB Surtida** and **E Gasataya**

In the 1980s, coastal resource management (CRM) became accepted as an approach to secure continued productivity of coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds, primarily by non-government organizations (NGO) and academic and research institutions. Through CRM, several marine protected areas were established and maintained by organized communities.

In like manner, SEAFDEC/AQD, in 1991 started a CRM project in Malalison (also Mararison), an island off the west coast of Panay. Without doubt, after several years of maintaining protected areas, testimonies of increased catch, and a perceivable economic progress in the island, nearby coastal municipalities off the island have followed the Malalison style.

One of such grouping is LIPASECU, an acronym for four coastal municipalities that face Malalison Island. LIPASECU Bay Wide Management Council was organized in 1997 to protect and manage the Pandan Bay coastal and marine resources for continued productivity for the benefit of the resource users specifically the marginalized fisherfolk. The four municipalities are

Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, and Culasi, including Culasi's three islands Malalison, Batbatan and Maniguin, all bordering Pandan Bay.

LIPASECU's formation was an offshoot of the community-based CRM program piloted by Antique Integrated Area Development (ANIAD) in 1995 in Culasi. ANIAD is a collaborative effort of local non-government organizations (NGO) and government organizations (GO) where NGOs and GOs play equal roles as partners in development. It is jointly supported by the governments of the Philippines and the Netherlands.

Today, LIPASECU has several projects. Among them are resource conservation and rehabilitation, livelihood enhancement, waste management, law enforcement and sea patrol, institution build-



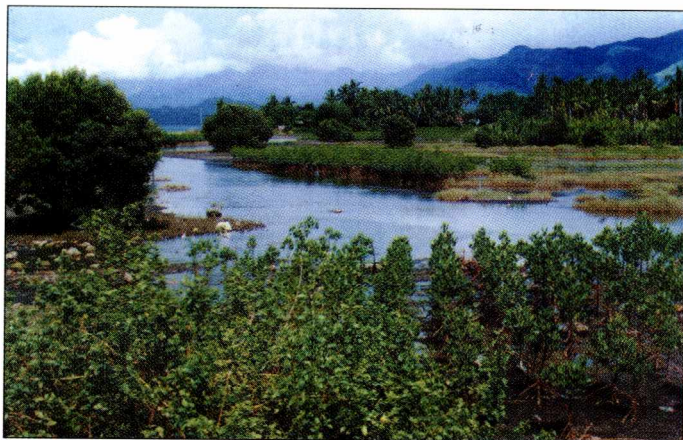
One of the marine sanctuaries visited was in Tibigbas, Libertad, Antique. It is 1 ha x 400 m x 15 fathoms. Installed in 1 April 1999, it now boasts of a proliferation of shellfishes which the fisherfolks gather for family consumption and even for sale. Residents say that the sanctuary has two resident lionfishes



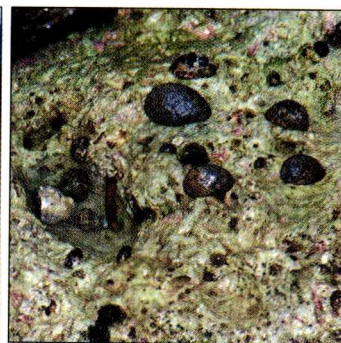
Joelito Mateo exemplifies the young LGU official. He has worked hard for the establishment of the fish sanctuary and would readily mention the benefits that are now enjoyed by his constituents



The man behind the mayor -- Felipe Dimacutac Jr



Mangrove reforestation project in Lipata, Culasi. Growth of the mangrove trees is not good. AQD consultant Wilfredo Yap explains that the species planted may not be suitable to the site



Shellfish now abound in the fish sanctuary and outside of it. They are ready sources of protein for most barangay dwellers, no matter that the sanctuary is barely six months old

Fish warden Jesus Varona guards the sanctuary with his strict and steady monitoring. He lives very close to the sanctuary area and is one of those who benefit from the increasing stock in the sanctuary



Rose Dimamay of LIPASECU

ing and sea patrol, and research and data banking. But the most important component is the institutionalization of initiatives on the LGU level. Rose Dimamay, CRM Officer of ANIAD and Acting Executive Director of LIPASECU says "that this would be the most meaningful component because any change in elective officials or pull out of funding agencies would not mean an immediate change in legal policy or ordinances."

An example of such an ordinance is spelled in the Comprehensive Unified Ordinance Regulating the Fishing Industry, Fisheries, and Aquatic Resources. Says Felipe Dimacutac Jr, a Sangguniang Barangay Member from Culasi: "Dynamite fishing, encroachment in the sanctuaries, and illegal fishing are rampant violations of our ordinances. We have penalties and sanctions spelled out in our ordinances, including fish wardens and patrol boats to impose them; thus, we are able to appreciate the value of promulgating ordinances for our town because violations are easily dealt with."

The unified fishery ordinance

The Comprehensive Unified Fishery Ordinance of LIPASECU would be enacted by the four member municipalities. As such, enforcement would cover all of Pandan

Bay. It will also be enforced in conjunction with existing laws, decrees, orders, issuances and regulations on fishing and fisheries.

The ordinance has seven articles that cover title and purpose, declaration of policy, definition of terms, general provisions, creation of FARMC and integrated FARMC, prohibitions and penalties, and enforcement. Under such ordinance, the preferential rights of the marginal municipal fisherfolks declared in the Philippine Fisheries code would be upheld.

Under the definition of terms, 98 fishery related terms are defined and updated from the Philippine Fisheries Code. The general provisions define the coverage of Pandan Bay; zoning of the municipal waters into 11 zones each with a specific purpose and usage; issuance of licenses and permits; registry of fisherfolks and fish workers; licensing of fishing vessels and gears; licensing of fishing vessels motorized and non-motorized three gross tons and below; use of ancillary invoice; limited entry into overfished areas, establishment of closed seasons; fish refuge and sanctuaries regulating use of compressors, and moderation of scuba diving and other related sports.

The ordinance also strengthens and organizes the Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Council (FARMC) in the barangay and municipal level. It defines the functions and composition of FARMC. The municipal FARMC has seven fisherfolk representatives, one fishworker, three commercial fishers, and one each from the Department of Agriculture, the private sector, accredited NGO, Municipal Development Council, Sangguniang Bayan Committee on Fisheries, and the municipal planning development officer. A Manual of Operations that governs the operations and effective implementation of its programs and projects is promulgated. Even sources of funds is defined. The main source is the contribution of P 50,000 from each municipality annually aside from other sources such as the income from implemented activities and donations.

All violations to the ordinance have a corresponding penalty. Penalties vary from P500 and confiscation of fish catch to P20,000; imprisonment, from 6 months to 2 years. These are fines/penalties for offenses ranging from illegal fishing to use of fine mesh nets. But fishing with methods that destroy corals and other marine

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habitats fetch a penalty of P100,000-500,000 and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

The enforcement provision defines the sharing of collected fines among the four municipalities: 30% to the municipality that conducted the apprehension, 40% to LIPASECU for law enforcement activities such as attorneys fees, and 30% to barangay funds to support the FARMCS.

Conclusion

With the unified ordinance of LIPASECU, the Local Government Code, and the Philippine Fisheries Code are given meaning as the backbone of conservation and preservation of our marine resources through empowerment of resource users. It is meaningful to AQD in that these municipalities surround Malalison, AQD's site for its CRM project. The influence of Malalison on these municipalities may be indirect but it is good to think that there was a start and that start was Malalison.

LIPASECU's experience is not different from other CRM projects around the country. In a report titled *Study on the Management of Fisheries/Aquatic Resources at the Local Level in the Philippines* conducted by the Local Government Center of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, August 1996, the capability of LGUs to support and promote the principles of CRM, anchored on the Local Government Code is well documented.

Rose Dimamay attests to this. She says that "the success of LIPASECU lies in the supportive role of all the LGUs concerned." Based on the networks and linkages among the various players in the project sites, a common approach is the strong participation of the community thru the NGOs and people's organizations. Among the findings regarding funding, the Center recommended that the financial capacity of the LGU be strengthened by allocating to them shares from the national government collection from fishery charges. The Department of Budget and Management has been urged to look into this matter. ###

The lesson Malalison taught

By **RIY Adan**

In 1990, SEAFDEC/AQD scouted for an area for its CRM project. It was a good thing Malalison Island off Culasi, Antique was the most qualified site among the five areas considered.

The establishment of CRM project in Malalison brought many positive changes in the community, not only with regards to their coastal resources but most importantly to the human resources.

"The people of Malalison are now educated, responsible fisherfolk. They know that what they do now would benefit their children in the future," said Ms. Lorna Angor, Culasi's Agricultural Technologist.

When AQD formally turned over the project to the Malalison community on March 20, 1998, islanders were left on their

own. But this did not alter the residents' commitment and enthusiasm in conserving their environment. They continued strict implementation of ordinances, exercised TURF, apprehended illegal fishers, and went on with their surveillance of the island. The people now have the technical background especially in assessing their resources.

Although no data is yet available, people have noticed the evident increase of fish catch around the island. This, Ms. Angor said, encourages the residents more to continue doing all those things that AQD has taught them.

The Malalison CRM project now serves as a model to coastal barangays around Panay and most especially to nearby barangays in Culasi. In fact, residents of Batbatan, another island of Culasi, are hoping that their island would be the next CRM site should there be another project.

"They have seen the result of Malalison, and they want to follow suit," Culasi Mayor Linda Palacios commented. "The people on the island are already conscious of the effect of resource destruction. They are paying the price today for all those illegal activities they have done."

Batbatan residents now have to fish far from the island because fish supply is already dwindling and insufficient.

"That's why we want AQD to return. AQD has taught the people of



Mayor Linda Palacios of Culasi



Local legislator Felipe Dimacutac Jr and municipal agriculturist Edgardo Escobanez